

- 26 -

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A system for selecting a pet lead or collar configuration at point of sale, the system comprising
5 an arrangement for storing, in a disassembled configuration, a number of pet lead and/or collar components sufficient and configurable to assemble a pet lead and/or collar.
- 10 2. A system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an assembly facility that enables components selected from the arrangement to be assembled into the pet lead and/or collar configuration at point of sale.
- 15 3. A system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the assembly facility is configured such that a purchaser of the lead or collar can assemble the components into a desired pet lead and/or collar configuration.
- 20 4. A system as claimed in claim 2 or 3 wherein the storage arrangement and assembly facility are positioned in proximity of each other such that selected components can be immediately assembled into a desired pet lead or collar configuration.
- 25 5. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the pet lead components comprise a plurality of each of:
 - a clip configured for releasable attachment to a
30 collar;
 - a leash for fastening attachment to the clip.

- 27 -

6. A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the components additionally comprise a plurality of collars configured to be worn by a pet and a plurality of rings for attaching the clip to the collar.
7. A system as claimed in claim 5 or 6, further comprising a releasable attachment means for attaching the clip to a proximal end of the leash, the attachment means being associated with either or both of the clip and leash.
8. A system as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein a distal end of each leash is configured to be held by a person.
9. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the components are sufficient and configurable for manual assembly of the pet lead and/or collar.
10. A system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the pet collar components comprise a plurality of each of:
- an elongate member for forming into a loop to define a body of the collar; and
 - a coupling component fastenable to the elongate member and enabling releasable attachment to a leash.
11. A system for selecting a pet lead or collar configuration at point of sale substantially as

- 28 -

herein described and with reference to the accompanying drawings.

12. A method for enabling selection of a pet lead or
5 collar configuration, respectively at point of sale,
comprising the step of, at point of sale, providing a
number of pet lead or collar components sufficient
and configurable to assemble a pet lead and/or
collar.
- 10 13. A method as claimed in claim 12, comprising the
further step of, at point of sale, providing for
assembly of the selected components into the pet lead
and/or collar configuration.
- 15 14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the pet lead
or collar components together with an assembly
facility are provided in proximity of each other to
enable selected respective components to be
20 immediately assembled into a desired pet lead and/or
collar configuration.
15. A method as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14,
wherein a purchaser of the lead or collar can
25 assemble the respective components into a desired pet
lead and/or collar configuration.
16. A method for enabling selection of a pet lead or
collar configuration at point of sale, substantially
30 as herein described and with reference to the
accompanying drawings.

- 29 -

17. A pet lead comprising:
- a clip configured for releasable attachment to a pet collar; and
 - attachment means for releasable attachment of the clip to an elongate member.
18. A lead as claimed in claim 17, wherein the elongate member has a shackle attached to one end, and the attachment means releasably connects the shackle with the clip.
19. A pet collar comprising a clip configured for releasable attachment to a pet lead, identification tag or other collar depending object, and the clip being attached to an elongate member of the collar.
20. A collar as claimed in claim 19, wherein the elongate member has a shackle attached thereto, and the attachment means releasably connects the shackle with the clip.
21. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 18 or 20, wherein the attachment means comprises:
- a male portion mountable to the shackle or clip; and
 - a female portion mountable to the clip or shackle respectively and adapted for receiving the male portion therein such that, when engaged, the male and female portions attach the clip and shackle together.
22. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 21, wherein part of the male portion is externally threaded and part

- 30 -

of the female portion is internally threaded, for screw coupling together of the male and female portions.

- 5 23. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 21 or 22,
 wherein a sleeve is mounted on the shackle or clip,
 with the female portion being inserted into one end
 of this sleeve and the male portion being inserted
 into an opposite end of this sleeve.
- 10 24. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 23, wherein the
 female portion is snugly received in the sleeve
 whereas the male portion has an enlarged head
 protruding out beyond the female portion and sleeve.
- 15 25. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 21, wherein the
 male portion is a shank and the female portion is a
 sleeve, the shank being insertable through the sleeve
 such that a free end protrudes therebeyond, with the
20 shank free end comprising a groove that is adapted
 for engagement by a circlip that has a perimeter
 greater than an inner dimension of the sleeve.
- 25 26. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 21, wherein the
 male portion is a shank and the female portion is a
 sleeve, the shank being insertable into the sleeve
 such that a free end is located within the sleeve,
 the shank free end comprising a groove that is
 alignable with a slot defined in a side wall of the
30 sleeve, the groove being adapted for engagement by a
 circlip insertable through the slot whereby, once the
 circlip is inserted through the slot and engaged on
 the groove, it locks the shank in the sleeve.

- 31 -

27. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 21, wherein the male portion is a shank having a lug at a free end thereof and the female portion is a sleeve having a slot in a side wall thereof that is shaped to laterally receive the shank and lug therethrough and allow the lug to move longitudinally to a seat, from where it must be moved longitudinally then laterally to be removed from the sleeve, the attachment means further comprising a plug shaped for fastening receipt in the sleeve slot whereby, once the shank and lug have been inserted through the slot, the plug can be inserted and fastened into the slot to lock the shank and lug in the sleeve.
28. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 27, wherein the plug has opposing projecting fingers, each having a hooking means at a free end thereof, and wherein an internal wall of the sleeve has corresponding holes defined therethrough, each hole for receiving a respective hooking means therein to fasten the plug in the sleeve when it is inserted into the slot.
29. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 27 or 28, wherein a portion of the shackle extends through the sleeve, whereby the lug can sit under the shackle portion whereas part of the plug extends over the shackle portion, to thereby sandwich the shackle portion between the lug and plug part.
30. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 20, wherein the shackle is in the form of a karabiner, joined to or integrally formed with an end of the clip, and

- 32 -

through an opening of which a looped end of the elongate member may be passed.

31. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 30, wherein a sleeve is mounted to the karabiner, and a shank extends from the clip and is inserted through the sleeve such that a free end protrudes therebeyond, the shank free end being swaged so as to have a perimeter that is greater than an inner dimension of the sleeve to thereby fasten the clip to the karabiner.
32. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 17 or 19, wherein an end of the elongate member is looped and the attachment means comprises:
- a shackle which passes through the loop or an aperture in the clip; and
 - a pin for the shackle which passes through the aperture in the clip or loop respectively.
33. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 32, wherein the pin has a threaded end and an opposing enlarged head, the threaded end being screwable into a threaded recess defined at a free end of one arm of the shackle, and the enlarged head being restrained at a recess defined at a free end of another arm of the shackle.
34. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 31 or 32, wherein the shackle is U-shaped.
35. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 17 or 19, wherein the attachment means comprises a link for

- 33 -

connecting the clip and elongate member together, the link being mounted to or integrally formed with the clip or extending through an aperture in the clip, and also extending through a looped end of the elongate member, the looped end of the elongate member being enabled by a shackle and pivot pin arrangement in which a free end of the elongate member is looped back through the shackle and the pivot pin of the shackle is inserted through a hole in the free end to lock the same against movement in the shackle.

36. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 17 or 19, wherein the attachment means comprises a link for connecting the clip and elongate member together, the link being mounted to or integrally formed with the clip or extending through an aperture in the clip, and also extending through a looped end of the elongate member, the looped end of the elongate member being defined by folding back a free end of the elongate member and releasably fastening it against an adjacent part of the elongate member.

37. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 36, wherein the elongate member free end is releasably fastened against the adjacent part through the arrangement of one or more press studs, rivets or threaded studs therebetween.

38. A lead or collar as claimed in any one of claims 35 to 37, wherein the link is a closed oval-shaped or rectangular ring.

- 34 -

39. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 17 or 19,
wherein the attachment means comprises a first link
that extends through a looped end of the elongate
member and a second link mounted to or integrally
5 formed with the clip or extending through an aperture
in the clip, with one of the first or second links
being connected to a stem of a T-piece, and the other
of the second or first links being connected to a
body having a T-shaped slot defined therein for
10 receipt of the T-piece to connect the first and
second links together.
40. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 39, wherein the
T-piece and body are each elongate, with the T-shaped
15 slot extending longitudinally through the body and
defining a T-shaped opening to the slot at an end
thereof through which the elongate T-piece can be
slid to connect the first and second links together.
- 20 41. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 39 or 40,
wherein a grub screw or pin can be mounted to extend
through the T-piece and into the body when the
T-piece is located in the body to lock the first and
second links together.
- 25 42. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 17 or 19,
wherein the attachment means comprises:
- a body having a hollow interior and an aperture
to that interior, the body connected to the
30 elongate member or clip; and
 - a shank with a lug at a free end thereof, the
lug having a greater cross-sectional dimension
than that of the aperture, but sized to fit

- 35 -

within the body hollow interior, the shank being connected to the clip or elongate member respectively;

- 5 - wherein at least one of the lug and/or body is deformable or flexible such that the lug can be inserted through the aperture and into the hollow interior, to connect the elongate member and clip together.

10 43. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 17 or 19, wherein the attachment means comprises:

- 15 - a body having a hollow interior and an aperture to that interior, with a ring element locatable within the hollow interior, the body connected to the elongate member or clip; and

- 20 - a shank having a groove for receiving the ring element therein, the groove located adjacent to a free end of the shank, the shank being connected to the clip or elongate member respectively;

- 25 - wherein at least one of the shank and/or ring element is deformable or flexible such that the shank can be inserted through the aperture and into the hollow interior until the ring element rides into the groove to connect the elongate member and clip together.

30 44. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 43, wherein the ring element comprises a circular spring which is deformed as the shank moves therepast, and which springs into the groove once it is aligned therewith.

- 36 -

45. A collar as defined in any one of claims 21 to 44,
wherein the elongate member is a strap.
46. A lead as defined in any one of claims 17 or 21 to 44
when dependant on claim 17, wherein the elongate
member is a leash or strap that includes a handle at
a remote end thereof.
47. A lead or collar as claimed in any one of claims 17
to 46, wherein the clip has a spring-loaded pin
defining a gateway to an aperture of the clip, and
wherein a protruding hook extends outwardly from the
pin and is adapted for receiving a user's finger
thereat to enable urging of the pin against the
spring to open the gateway.
48. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 47 wherein the
hook is J or U-shaped and is sized to receive a
user's finger snugly therein.
49. A lead or collar as claimed in any one of claims 17
to 48, wherein a gateway to an aperture of the clip
is defined by an elongate member pivotally mounted
intermediate its ends to the clip to define a lever
portion of the member extending away from the clip
that can be actuated by a user's hand, with an
opposite end of the member defining a gate portion to
the gateway that can be pivoted open and closed by
actuation of the lever.
50. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 49 wherein the
clip has an elongate body with a head at a remote end
thereof, the head defining the aperture and the

- 37 -

gateway thereto, and wherein the elongate member is pivotally mounted to the clip adjacent to the head such that the lever portion extends from one side of the clip body and the gate portion extends from an opposite side.

5

51. A lead or collar as claimed in claim 50 wherein the elongate member is biased by a spring into the gateway closed position.

10

52. A clip for a pet lead, the clip being as defined in any one of claims 47 to 51.

53. A pet lead or collar substantially as herein described with reference to the drawings.

15

54. An attachment means for use with a pet lead or collar for attaching a clip of the pet lead or collar to an elongate member of the pet lead or collar, the attachment means being as defined in any one of claims 17 to 44.

20

55. An attachment means for a pet lead substantially as herein described with reference to Figures 1 to 12, 17 or 18 of the drawings.

25

56. A clip for a pet lead or collar, characterised in that the clip is configured in the shape of an animal, and a portion of the animal's anatomy is mechanically associated with the operation of the clip.

30

- 38 -

57. A clip as claimed in claim 56, wherein the portion of the animal's anatomy comprises a latching means for opening the clip and enabling it to be clipped onto a shackle or ring, characterised in that opposing portions of the latching means are configured in the shape of an ear and a jaw of the animal such that, by moving the ear portion of the latching means, the jaw portion of the latching means can move between open and closed positions.
58. A clip as claimed in claim 57, wherein the latching means is a lever arm pivotally mounted intermediate its ends to a remainder of the clip, with one end of the lever arm defining a protruding ear of the animal shape for manual engagement by a user, and the other end of the lever arm defining a jaw portion of the animal shape that can move to open onto an open mouth portion of the animal shape and into which a loop of a shackle or ring can be located.
59. A clip for a pet lead and/or collar substantially as herein described with reference to Figures 13 to 18, 20 and 21 of the drawings.
60. A method of assembling the lead or collar of claims 27 to 29, comprising the steps of:
- (a) laterally inserting the lug and shank into the slot;
 - (b) longitudinally moving the shank away from the shackle so that the lug becomes seated in the sleeve; and
 - (c) inserting and thereby fastening the plug into the slot to secure the lug in the sleeve and to

- 39 -

sandwich a portion of the shackle between the
lug and plug.

61. A pet collar comprising a clip configured for
5 releasable attachment to a pet lead, identification
tag or other collar depending object, and the clip
being attached to an elongate member of the collar.